

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to T. S. Southgate, June 7, 1906, with transcript

JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION. Copy of a letter-press copy of a letter from ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL concerning the appointment of Honorary Director of Aeronautics. June 7, 1906 Mr. T. S. Southgate, Governor of Exposition and Exhibits, of the Jamestown Exposition, Norfolk, Va. My dear Sir:

Your note of March 26, enclosing a copy of resolutions passed by the Board of Governors of the Jeametown Exposition Company conferring upon me the commission of Honorary Director of Aeronautics was received here during my absence in Europe, and I must apologize for this long delay in answering it.

I regret that I cannot see my way to accepting the commission on account of the numerous duties that now devolve upon me — rendering it inadvisable for me to accept new responsibilities. I shall always be glad to be of assistance to the Exposition unofficially in the matter of aeronautics but cannot undertake the Directorship or be connected officially with the Exposition.

If you have no one in mind allow me to suggest the name of Professor W. J. McGee, Director of the St. Louis Public Museum, as that of one eminently fitted to supervise the work of this important part of the Exposition. He is a well known scientific man and has taken a great interest in Aeronautics. If he would accept the position of Directorship — of which I have no means of judging — he would no doubt throw himself heart and soul into the work of the Exposition in this department and make it a success.

Sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell.